February QUA CVARC 2015

A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

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The CVARC club meeting is held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month (except for December) at:
The East County Sheriff's Station
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

The East County Sheriff's Station ("ECSS") facility is just off the 23 freeway from the Olsen Road off-ramp, north, between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley.

Presidents Message
by Tim Wheeler, K6POI

'Twas a blustery day at Acorn Acres...
as a dedicated band of radio practitioners slowly gathered around nine-ish at the benches at TO Community Park. OK... OK... So, the wrap sandwiches were a bother. Mine was soggy at best... I hope better for the others.

But... We still made the Mini?/Micro?/Nano? Field Day (I can't keep 'em straight) a good time had by all!! A total of eleven faithful communicators were still gathered for a mid-day meal. Plus, throughout the day, a good number of other club members and some general public stopped by to mingle with the Ham Band and to sample the ever-present jug of Starbucks. (Thank you, Michelle and Mark). It was Ham Radio at its social and playful best for me... hopefully for you too. Thanks to "all of the above" for making the event a success.

Here's an item... I'm not alone in my excitement to honor one of our own... Hugh Bosma... for his contributions to our club and to the local advancement of Amateur Radio. Your Board of Directors is looking into issuing a perpetual trophy in Hugh's name recognizing similar uplifting contributions by members of the CVARC on a yearly basis in the future.
What do you think of this idea? Please email your reactions to k6poi@arrl.net. If you would like to share your experience of the Hugh... an anecdote that would typify the man who you knew... I'll try to honor your comments in a summary article in a future edition of this Newsletter.
Or... Submit your finished piece directly to Mike, N6TEA, at QUA CVARC.

See Ya On The Radio!

Tim Wheeler, K6POI

Meeting and Discussion – Feb 19th., 2015

Have you ever had to load four radios with a number of frequencies for an event that's happening today? There's a hard way and an easy way to do it... Likewise, there's an expensive way and a no-cost way to get the same job done... Right now! Rather than hand-loading each entry... one at a time... in every... one... of... your radios... CHIRP THEM! Jaap de Goede is at it again telling how this can be done with Dan Smith's freeware program.
Better yet... get a preview of Jaap's program at Dinner With The Speaker, starting at 5pm Thursday at Topper's Restaurant, in the shopping center on the SE corner of Janss and Moorpark, Thousand Oaks. C U There!

Tim, K6POI

Dinner With Jaap de Goede, KK6LMJ

Join your fellow CVARC hams and guests this month for the pre-club meeting dinner with our speaker, Jaap de Goede, KK6LMJ, at Topper's Pizza, 1416 N. Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks (in the Ralph's Shopping Center at the corner of Janss Rd. & Moorpark Rd.) Phone: 805-495-4444. If available, we will be in the group room beginning at 5:00 pm; otherwise, we will plan to push together a few tables. Just walk in, order your food, pay up front, then come find us!

Mark KK6IKX
Michelle KK6RBW

CVARC VE Session Report – Feb. 8th. 2015

The February CVARC VE session results were not yet available at press time for this newsletter. This is the result of a combination of heavy snow in Washington, DC, where FCC headquarters is located, compounded by the Presidents' Day Federal holiday. The results of the February session will be posted in our March newsletter.

The next CVARC VE session will be held Sunday, April 12th at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station.

CVARC VE sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners. CVARC Volunteer Examiners donate their time to help advance Amateur Radio and their assistance is greatly appreciated. VE sessions are one of the components that help CVARC qualify for the ARRL's special service club designation.

In 2014, CVARC VEs administered 87 exam elements to 58 candidates.

Submitted by Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR, CVARC VE Session Coordinator

"HF Roundtable" reminder

When: Every Wednesday at 07:30 PM to 08:30 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US Canada)

Where:

Frequency: 21.333 kHz, + or - a few kHz depending on QRM (21.330-21.335)

This is an informal, rag chew style net that is conducted by various CVARC net control ops to enable you to talk to other CVARC members, and occasional guests who sign-in, on the high frequency band at 21.333 kHz or thereabouts. At the time scheduled, the band is operating on ground wave so you don't need 1 KW to sign in and say hello. If you have not operated HF because you don't have a tower and yagi, the simplest of stealth antenna varieties will work. So, please come join us at least to check it out.

Amateur Radio Exam and Study Guide Websites

http://www.qrz.com
On the right column under “Ham Study”, go to “Practice Tests”

http://www.eham.net
On the left column under “Resources”, go to “Ham Exams”

http://www.KB0MGA.net
Log in is required

http://www.radioexam.org
Practice Exams

Tax Deductible Donations to CVARC

CVARC is an IRS-certified 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are deductible pursuant to the IRS rules. If you have working radio equipment and ancillary equipment that you can and wish to donate to the club, please contact one of the board members and we will be happy to talk to you about the process. Many companies will either grant or match employee’s gifts to non-profit organizations like CVARC.

Please determine if your company is among these and contact a board member so we may help fund and grow CVARC. We cannot accept certain donations, and have to place some restrictions around them (no hazardous materials, nothing we could not sell, etc.). If you are interested, look me up, or any other board member, at one of the meetings or contact us via email (our addresses are on page 6 of the newsletter).

CVARC is recognized by the ARRL as a Special Service Club (SSC). To be a part of the ARRL’s Special Service Club program, the club must regularly show that it is actively involved in certain areas, including:

- New Ham Development and Training
- Public Relations
- Emergency Communications
- Technical Advancement
- Operating Activities

Name: _____

Call Sign:_____

Class: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____)_____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label):_____

ACS#: _____ ARES# _____

Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____

Family Membership $30: Names/Calls

_____

_____

You will automatically receive the newsletter via E-Mail. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, check here: _____

New or Renewal: _____

Single Membership $25 _____

Family Membership $30_____

Multi-year _____ years @ $20/year = _____

New Ham (licensed in last 12 months) $10 _____

Single Membership & full-time student $10 _____

ARRL Membership Renewal (incl. ARRL form) $ _____

Ad Space (2x3) One Year member $35 _____

Ad Space (2x3) One Year non-member $75 _____

Total enclosed $: _____

Cash _____ Check Number _____

Interested in:

License Upgrades: _____ Joining ARES/ACS: _____

Disaster Action Team: _____ Earning a ham license ____

Depiction, a Slick Program to create maps

[Editor's note: Greg made up a program to plot various CVARC member stations who communicated on the HF Round Table Network to illustrate propagation between the various stations. All it took from members was GPS coordinates which can readily be found on Google Earth for your home address. Greg used the software described below. The results were excellent. You are encouraged to try it.]

The following list of topics are given for those who might be interested in a program that allows the user to create maps and other graphical items.

1. Who uses Depiction: http://www.depiction.com/who-uses-depiction
2. What versions are available: http://www.depiction.com/latest-build
3. What if you don't want to buy the program but would like to evaluate it: Go to the home site and explore all those topics that may be of interest. http://www.depiction.com/
4. You can download a free Depiction Reader program and explore the sample files or download the user manual for a more detailed presentation of the program features.
5. Sign up for a free "lessons": http://www.depiction.com/webinars

My personal notes on the program:

Version 1.4.3 latest Build is a stable program and has a fairly good manual on the features and use. Like any program there might be "glitches" as each of us has a level of impatience's when trying new things. This program can be very useful if you are involved in any emergency response group. Other hams have used this in their activities.
The features I like most:

1. Once I create my map and data it resides on my computer so I do not have to be on the internet.
2. I like the APRS Live package, so I can track any ham assigned to an activity, as it gives me the ability to know where the asset is as well as sending data over RF networks back and forth for updated information. The use of FLDigi is also possible with some training on how to move data to a map.
3. This is a good situation awareness product. You can show and/or protect the data that you wish to present.

It takes some time to be "good at it" but that goes without saying "you get what you put into it."
Good luck. You can email me at k7sdw@verizon.net with DPN_Questions in the subject field.
I am not a paid employee of Depiction. I am a "tester" for the version 2.0, which is being worked on to provide many features that version 1.4.3 users have requested over the many past years.

[Editor's note: and another excellent article submitted by Greg. Just click on the link to see details about perhaps the premiere CW site for ham radio. If you want to send CW like an accomplished long time ham, do click on the link.]

SKCC - Straight Key Century Club
www.skccgroup.com

73 de Greg, K7SDW

CVARC Calendar of Upcoming Events, Announcements and Trivia Question

February 21 – 22	ARRL International DX Contest-CW
February 28	Tech Class starts 0900-1300 T.O. City Hall-Oaks rm (5 Saturdays) Zak-n6pk@arrl.net
March 1	Crop Walk-Thousand Oaks-CLU 1:00 – 4:00 pm Zak Cohen n6pk@arrl.net
March 1	Crop Walk-Pt Hueneme/Oxnard area Stewart-Stone kg6bov@arrl.net
March 7,8	International DX Contest-Phone http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
March 14	Palm Springs Hamfest http://palmspringshamfest.com
March 28	Honor Ride-Conejo Valley Zak Cohen n6pk@arrl.net
May 9	Cruisin the Conejo Zak Cohen n6pk@arrl.net
April 13	VHF Spring Sprint-144 mhz-7 – 11pm
	https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home
April 17	International DX Convention, Visalia-www.dxconvention.org
April 19	Rookie Roundup-phone
April 21	VHF Spring Sprint-222 mhz-7 – 11pm
April 29	VHF Spring Sprint-432 Mhz-7 – 11pm

Announcements: This is where future “for sale by members” ads will be placed.

Help: Does anyone know the CORRECT e-mail address for David Haskell, please? He apparently gave us an incorrect address when he joined the club. His e-mail is not listed on QRZ, either. Please let this editor know. Thank you.

Trivia Corner

What is the greatest single cause of vacuum tube failure, per Tom Rauch,http://www.w8ji.com the designer of many HF amps? It is manufacturers’ errors. Surprised? That is why Eimac codes and dates their tubes with the factory run info in case they need to issue recalls. Now, how many ‘S’ units of signal strength does one gain by increasing amp output from 1K to 1.5 KW?

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times and Frequencies:

Area 2 ACS/ARES members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. on the Area 2 check-in nets.

Please note that the detailed list of ACS/ARES frequencies, repeaters, off-sets, etc. is available on the Internet.
The official frequency list was updated 9/20/2013 and is available at: http://vc-ares.org. [Please note that these frequency charts are notoriously difficult to edit. If you see an error, please bring it to the Editor's attention. Thank you.]

For quick reference, you may wish to pick a local repeater, shown courtesy of Zak Cohen, with their offsets/PL from the abbreviated list below:

146.805 – 100.0 Simi Valley AD6SV
147.885 – 127.3 Thousand Oaks – BOZO N6JMI
147.915 – 127.3 Camarillo WB6ZTQ
146.970 – 127.3 Oxnard WB6YQN
145.400 – NIL Ojai Valley N6FL
147.975 – 127.3 Ventura N6VUY
146.385 + 127.3 Santa Paula & County Wide SOUTH MOUNTAIN WB6ZSN
145.460 – 127.3 Moorpark K6ERN
146.880 – 127.3 Red Mt / County / SMRA County Wide WA6ZTT
146.850 – 94.8 Thousand Oaks – Grissom N6EVC
224.700 – 156.7 Thousand Oaks – Grissom K6HB
223.960 – 141.3 Thousand Oaks – Rasnow Peak N6CFC
445.580 – 100.0 Simi Valley K6ERN
449.440 – 131.8 Thousand Oaks (AMGEN) W6AMG
447.000 – 103.5 Camarillo Springs K6ERN

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please call Zak Cohen or go to the ACS/ARES section of the CVARC website at http://www.cvarc.org.

Net Control operations for the weekly ACS/ARES Area 2 check-in are run from the ACS/ARES communications center at East County Sheriff Station (on Olsen Road) every Tuesday starting at 7:00 p.m.

Visitors are welcome and have the opportunity to operate the station. Please contact Zak Cohen, whose info is listed below, to arrange it.

2015 CVARC Officers

President	Tim Wheeler	K6POI	(805) 222-0023	k6poi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mike Slate	N6TEA	(818) 917-6868	n6tea@arrl.net
Secretary	Jaap de Goede	KK6LMJ	(818) 540-5417	jaap.de.goede@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christian Ylagan	K6CAY	(202) 558-2009	kd6dwt@verizon.net
Public Relations	Joe Sprissler	KJ6LXK	(805) 449-4359	pj91360@verizon.net
Technical	Avi Carmi	K6AVI	(805) 616-2636	avi@carmi.us
Operations	Adrian Jarrett	K6KY	(805) 915-7562	g4frz@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Mike Slate (acting)	N6TEA	(818) 917-6868	n6tea@arrl.net
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Social	Mark/Michelle Horner	KK6IKX/KK6RBW	(805) 523-0789	mahorner@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large	Todd Kleopfer	KD6RCM	(805) 844-8708	kd6rcm@arrl.net
Member at Large	Andy Ludlum	KI6NON	(818) 370-3402	ki6non@arrl.net
Member at Large	Charles Pember	KG6CLT	(805) 495-6701	crpember@aol.com
Educational Director	vacant			

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2093
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

Address Correction Requested

– FIRST – CLASS – MAIL –

CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC website at http://www.cvarc.org. In addition to visiting the website, you may like to join the CVARC Yahoo Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CVARCDiscussion/.

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, except December. The meeting location is the Community Room at The East County Sheriff Station, 2101 E. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks. Meetings start at 7:30pm with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

"QUA CVARC" is published monthly (on the Monday preceding the CVARC club meeting) by the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, AA6CV, PO Box 2093, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093. It is e-mailed free of charge to all members.

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its board, or its members.

CVARC Membership Rates

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings, and we do not pressure newcomers to join. If, however, you would like to support the club and its activities by becoming a member then we will be very pleased.

The simplest way to join (or to renew) is to write us a check bearing your address, and give or send it to our Treasurer. Make the check payable to "CVARC" and please put your call sign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, call sign, or address changes may be e-mailed to the Treasurer. Current annual rates are: Regular Membership $25. Family Membership $30. Special discounts are available for new members (licensed in the last 12 months) $10. Full-time Students: $10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: $20/year. Family members renewing for multiple years $25/year.